

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 8, 2002

LB 898

very simple amendment. It just says that since we're going to cut some aid that it be...the cuts be as furthest, as possible, from the classroom. I will just read it to you: "It is the intent of Legislature that reductions in state aid required pursuant to this legislative bill impact the quality of educational opportunities for students to the least extent possible. In keeping with this principle, the Legislature encourages school boards to make needed budget reductions in budgeted expenditures in functions other than classroom instruction." It's real simple. It just seems to me we need to...nobody wants to make this cut, but I think that if we do it we should do it as furthest away from our...our kids as possible. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: You've heard the opening on the Bourne amendment. Moving to discussion. There are no lights on. Senator Bourne, did you...oh, pardon me. Senator Raikes' light just came on. Senator Raikes, please.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I...I see no problem with this. It's intent language. On the other hand, I think it's important for us to recognize that this is local decisions that school districts, in their own particular circumstances, have to decide how they want to respond to the fiscal situation they're put in. Again, intent language doesn't bind them. It...it...it does provide a statement, if you will, from the Legislature. And so I guess there's no problem with that. I...I'm not giving you much direction here as to how I'm going to vote. I probably will not support it, but I would not regard it as a...a major problem. So, with that, thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, in a similar set of circumstances to these, which arose on a bill that Senator Dierks presented to us, I was in opposition because the language does not do anything. And such being the case, I would rather not see it in the statute. A resolution could achieve the same purpose. And for all we know, a local school district could decide that they've only got six kids left